

The Story of Two Miracles: The Towel and the Bread

Volume 47

Islamic Stories -

Written by Mansoor Ali Shah

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise-without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Chapter 1: Sacred Relics and Prophetic Touch

A Visit to Anas ibn Malik: The Incident of the Towel

Ubadah ibn al-Samit, a distinguished participant of the Battle of Badr and a revered Companion of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, once narrated a miraculous incident. He reported that on one occasion, he was invited to a meal at the home of Anas ibn Malik, another prominent Companion.

During the gathering, a maidservant brought him a towel. Noticing that the towel appeared soiled, Anas instructed the maid to clean it. She hurried away and astonishingly threw the towel into a burning oven. Moments later, she retrieved it and returned with the towel now immaculately clean.

Perplexed by what he had witnessed, Ubadah enquired of Anas regarding the mysterious nature of the towel.

A Hidden Blessing:

Ubadah ibn al-Samit:

"What is the secret behind this towel?"

Anas ibn Malik:

"Once, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ visited my home. I had the honour of helping him wash his blessed hands, and I offered this very towel for him to dry them. Since that day, fire has ceased to burn it. Whenever it becomes dirty, we throw it into the fire. The fire consumes the impurity, but the towel itself remains unharmed, and we take it out clean."

The Incident of the Unbaked Bread: Fatimah al-Zahra's Experience

On another occasion, Sayyidah Fatimah al-Zahra, the beloved daughter of the Prophet ﷺ, was baking bread. The Prophet ﷺ joined her and personally shaped one or two loaves. After a considerable time, when all the bread had been baked, she noticed that a few loaves remained raw, despite the passage of time and the presence of heat.

Upon seeing this unusual outcome, the Prophet ﷺ gently inquired about the situation.

A Father's Tender Response:

Muhammad ﷺ:

"My dear daughter, what has happened?"

Fatimah al-Zahra:

"O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, a few of these loaves are simply not baking."

Muhammad ﷺ:

"Yes, these must be the ones that were touched by your father's hand. Now, the fire cannot affect them."

Divine Consequences: The Touch of Prophethood

Thus, anything touched by the Prophet ﷺ exhibited remarkable qualities and divine favour. The towel that once dried his blessed hands became resistant to fire. Similarly, the loaves of bread touched by him remained unaffected by the heat of the oven. These events serve as sacred reminders of the unique blessings inherent in the physical contact with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.